Numb. 7.

THE TATLER Revived.

By ISAAC BICKERSTAFF Esq;

Libertas: Quæ ſera tamen reſpexit Inertem,
Reſpexit tamen, & longo poſt tempore venit. VIRG.

To be Continued on MONDAYS *and* FRIDAYS.

MONDAY, *November 6.* 1727.

From my own Apartment, Novemb. 4. 1727.

THE repeated Congratulations which have been ſent me upon my Appearance again in the World, and the good Wiſhes of Succeſs in my Lucubrations, which I daily receive; are no ſmall Encouragements to me in my Labours for the Publick. In return for the many Favours of this nature, which my kind Correſpondents have beſtow'd upon me; I ſhall aſſure them, that I will take particular care that the Entertainment which I give them, ſhall always be made up out of wholeſome Food; and alſo, that there ſhall be no Pains wanting to prepare it for their Palates in the moſt agreeable manner I am able.

AS I addreſs my ſelf to the Publick, I ſhall conſtantly remember the general Deſign of my Paper; and endeavour to vary its Shape, ſo that the Matter of it may be ſuited to every Genius in its turn. To this end, I ſhall for the future avoid running too great a Length upon any particular Subject: and take care to make every ſingle Lucubration fall in with the Taſte of as many of my Readers as I can; by ſeaſoning my more ſerious Diſcourſes with Wit, and never ſuffering my ſelf to be ſo wholly bent upon being merry, as to omit working up ſome uſeful Point or other of Inſtruction out of thoſe of the lighteſt Nature.

I am afraid theſe general Declarations will hardly be taken as a ſufficient Anſwer to my ſeveral Correſpondents, and ſhall therefore ſhow them that I do not ſlight their Aſſiſtance, or deſign to keep all the Talk to my ſelf, by inſerting the following Letter.

SIR,

"I Congratulate you and the Town, on "your entring a ſecond time on the "Stage; but cannot prevail with my ſelf to "approve of your preſent Retirement. How "do you expect to deſerve your Name, or "act up to your Character while you re"main a Recluſe? How will you acquit "your ſelf of the Duty of your Cenſor"ſhip, while you live a Stranger to the "Tranſactions of the Town? Believe me, "Mr. BICKERSTAFF, this Metropolis affords "as much room for the Exerciſe of your "Office; and calls as loudly for Reforma"tion, as when you lived amongſt us be"fore. Our Smarts, Dappers, Pretty Fel"lows and profeſs'd Beaus, are guilty of "the ſame or greater Extravagancies; and "*Will*'s, *White*'s, and the *Græcian*, afford "at leaſt as much Matter for Speculation "and Correction, as when you firſt under"took to inſpect thoſe Scenes of Politeneſs, "Gallantry, and Erudition. There are "ſeveral other Reaſons why I would have "you break out from your preſent Con"finement: And then I hope, by the Bene"fit of breathing the free Air, and enjoy"ing the many Advantages of converſing with

" with the Living, you may flouriſh long a-
" mongſt us in perfect Health and Vigour.
" To convince you that this Advice is the
" Reſult of a real Concern for you and
" the Publick, I promiſe to be your Corre-
" ſpondent: And perhaps may be of ſome
" ſmall uſe to you and my Neighbours.
" If you can think a Man of a tolerable
" Capacity, ſome Reading, and much Cu-
" rioſity, who has ſeen moſt of the Polite
" Parts of the World, worth your Notice;
" let me know it, by inſerting this in your
" next Paper. I have a ſettled Averſion to
" Politicks, and am a declared Enemy to
" Scandal; which Particulars of my Cha-
" racter, I thought neceſſary to be men-
" tioned; that you may not be under any
" Apprehenſions of my ſending you any
" thing, that you have declared to be con-
" traband Wares in your firſt Paper.

I am, Sir,

Octob. 23. *Your moſt humble Servant.*

T. R.

I hope this Gentleman will take my laſt Paper, both as an Anſwer to his Letter, and as a Reaſon for my not taking notice of it before. I aſſure him, I have a true Reliſh of the Pleaſures of Liberty; and therefore was very ready to take the firſt Opportunity of accepting of his Invitation to break out from my Confinement; that I might once more be able to Talk and Act like other People. Tho' the late Civility and Reſpect of my good Friends the Upholders, have put me into ſo perfect a Good Humour, that I am not at all diſpoſed to quarrel with any one living Creature whatſoever, and much leſs with my Friends and Correſpondents: yet I cannot avoid entring my Proteſt againſt one Paragraph in the foregoing Letter, *viz.* That in which I am deſir'd, *To inſert it in my next Paper.* As this Letter was wrote to me, before I had recommended the Virtue of Patience to my Correſpondents; I would very willingly have paſſed the matter over in ſilence, had I not been afreſh purſued with the ſame Requeſts; which are ſtill wound up in one ſhape or other, in the Concluſion of almoſt every Letter that comes to my Hands. Tho' I am unwilling to deny any thing to my Correſpondents, eſpecially thoſe of the Fair-Sex, yet this is a Petition which I cannot poſſibly admit of: And therefore do hereby deſire it may never have a Place again in any Letter that is ſent me. As I would not be thought to do a diſobliging thing, without having any reaſon for it; I ſhall beg leave to re-aſſume the Metaphor I made uſe of in the beginning of this Diſcourſe; and conſider my Paper once more under the Notion of an Entertainment. To furniſh out this Elegantly, there muſt not only be Plenty of good Proviſion, but a Genius and Deſign to bring in every particular part of it, in its proper Time and Place: and I aſſure my Readers, I always pay them the Regard, to have a Bill of Fare before me, of what I am to give them. I deſire therefore, that I may have my own Way in the ordering of the Whole; and not be called upon for a Diſh which belongs to the ſecond Courſe, when I am ſerving up the firſt; or deſired to ſet on an honeſt Sirloin of Beef, when it is the time to preſent them with Whip-Syllabubs.

WAS I to purſue the Metaphor any further, I could obſerve, that the Proviſions which I deal in, are of ſuch a nature as not to be in danger of ſuffering by keeping; and therefore hope my kind Correſpondents will for the future, ſend me them in without any Reſtriction; that I may be at full liberty to make uſe of them, when I think them moſt in Seaſon, and to bring them in, either in their own proper ſhape, or dreſt up after my own manner, as may be moſt agreeable to the Publick.

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